

03C0#4



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

**"INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT"**

APPLICANT(S): GERRIT BLEUMER

SERIAL NO.: 09/728,741

FILED: December 1, 2000

TITLE: **"FRANKING METHOD AND APPARATUS"**

Assistant Commissioner For Patents,

Washington, D.C. 20231

S I R:

In accordance with the provisions of 37 CFR §1.56, Applicant respectfully requests that citation and examination of the following documents be made during the course of examination of the above-referenced application for United States Letters Patent.

Reference AA - United States Patent No. 5,987,441

Reference AB - United States Patent No. 5,825,893

Reference AC - United States Patent No. 5,768,384

Reference AD - United States Patent No. 5,390,251

Reference AE - United States Patent No. 4,775,246

Reference AL - PCT Application WO 97/24699

Reference AR - "Information Base Indicia Program (IBIP) Indicium Specification,"

United States Postal Service, June 13, 1996.

**EXPLANATION OF RELEVANCE**

Reference AB was identified and discussed at page 2 of the present specification, and Applicant stands by the statements in the specification concerning the teachings of that reference.

The German counterpart to Reference AE, plus all of the other references, were cited by the European Patent Office in a Search Report rendered in connection with the European Application corresponding to the present United States application. A copy of the European Search Report is submitted herewith. Since all of those references are in English, no further commentary concerning their teachings is necessary.

Copies of each of the above references are submitted herewith together with Form 1449.

As of the date of mailing of this Information Disclosure Statement, a First Office Action on the merits has not been received in connection with this application. This Information Disclosure Statement is therefore in compliance with 37 CFR §1.97(b)(1), and no fee is necessary.

All claims of the application are submitted to be patentable over the teachings of the above references, taken singly or in combination. Early consideration of the application is therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

 (Reg. No. 28,982)

Steven H. Noll

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D. C. 20231 on March 15 2001.

Steven H. Noll

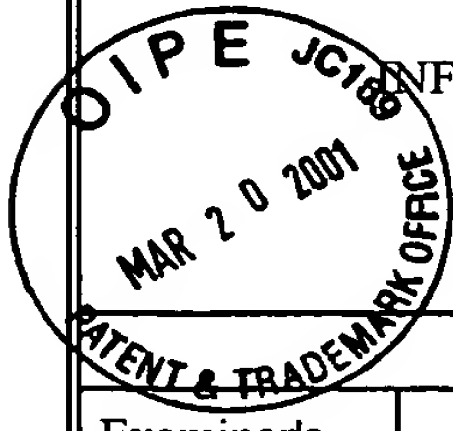
Name of Applicants' Attorney

Steven H. Noll

Signature

March 15, 2001

Date



37 CFR 1.501  
 INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT  
 IN A PATENT  
 (use several sheets if necessary)

Docket No.  
**P00,1748**

Serial No.  
**09/728,741**

Applicant  
**Gerrit Bleumer**

Filing Date  
**December 1, 2000**

Group Art Unit

**U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Examiner's Initials		Document Number	Date	Name	Class	Subclass	Filing Date If appropriate
	AA	5,987,441	11/16/99	Lee et al.			
	AB	5,825,893	10/20/98	Kara			
	AC	5,768,384	06/16/98	Berson			
	AD	5,390,251	02/14/95	Pastor et al.			
	AE	4,775,246	10/04/88	Edelmann et al.			
	AF						
	AG						
	AH						
	AI						
	AJ						

**FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

		Document Number	Date	Country	Class	Subclass	Translation	
							Yes	No
	AL	WO 97/24699	10/07/97	PCT				
	AM							
	AN							
	AO							
	AP							
	AQ							

**OTHER PRIOR ART (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)**

	AR	"Information Based Indicia Program (IBIP) Indicum Specification," United States Postal Service - June 13, 1996
	AS	
	AT	
	AU	
	AV	
	AW	

Examiner

Date Considered

**\*EXAMINER:** Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.